(d) the percentage of sulphur dioxide, hydro carbon and carbon monoxide in these metro cities at present; and

(e) what steps have been taken by the Government to reduce the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The status of air pollution in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in terms of National Ambient Air Quality Standards is regularly monitored. The air quality of all four metro cities in terms of specified criteria pollutants namely Sulphur dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen is within the normative limits as per the information available for the last three years i.e. 2004, 2005 and 2006. As for the Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), the air quality is within the norms in Chennai, however, in case of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata, it is beyond the prescribed standards.

(d) As per the notified ambient air quality standards, the ambient air quality data is measured in microgram per cubic metre (Annual or Daily Averages) and not in percentage.

(e) Government has taken various steps to reduce pollution which, *inter-alia,* include enforcement of stricter auto exhaust standards for new vehicles at the manufacturing stage, use of improved fuel quality, introduction of Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certification system for in-use vehicles and stringent diesel generator set emission norms.

Cleaning of Ganga

†2797. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has sought details of amount spent on the cleaning of Ganges by the State Governments of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of total amount spent on cleaning of Ganges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Hon.ble Supreme Court in its order dated 28.2.2007 on a Public Interest Litigation, has asked the Central Government to look into the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the period between 1993 to 2000 and give its response as to what remedial measures be taken in the light of the observations of CAG, and the delays in execution, operation & maintenance. The Supreme Court has also directed the Central Government & State Governments of U.R, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttaranchal & Jharkhand to file detailed affidavits as to manner in which the funds were spent under the Plan alongwith Utilization Certificates from the respective agencies in the light of the CAG Report.

Atotal of Rs. 735.11 crore as on 31.3.07 has been released to different States so far for implementation of schemes for the river Ganga under both the phases of Ganga Action Plan.

Shrinking of Gangotri Glacier

†2798. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gangotri glacier is Shrinking approximately 17.15 metres every year due to changes in climatic conditions and increase. in temperature as a result of emission of green house gases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken or propose to take any step to stop emission of green house gases with the co-operation of developed countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The studies carried out by Department of Science & Technology funded project on Gangotri Glacier revealed that Gangotri Glacier is receding at the rate of 17.15 metre/year during the period 1971-2004. Another study estimated a retreat of 12.10 M during the year 2004-05. As per the record of Geological survey of India, Gangotri Glacier has receded at the rate of 18.80 metres per year during-the period 1935-1996.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.